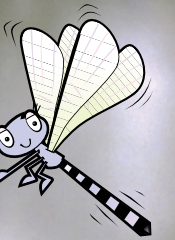


BEAKS & FEATHERS

PUPIL WORKBOOK 2



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WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT.

Lots of wild birds live on or near canals. You'll probably spot more birds than any other sort of wildlife – they can be very easy to see and often are quite colourful.

Lots of people like to watch birds - in the country or in a town - it's great fun. Sometimes birds behave in very amusing ways!

Try to identify and count different birds, and watch what they do. You will also discover that certain birds like certain places along the canal and how they depend on it.

**WHAT WILL YOU NEED?**

- identification poster 2
- this pupil workbook
- clipboard, pencils and rubber
- recording form
- bird identification books, if possible
- binoculars, if possible
- camera, if possible
- a portable tape recorder may be useful

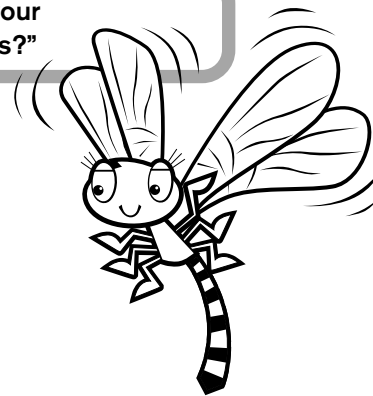
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Activity 1: What's that bird?

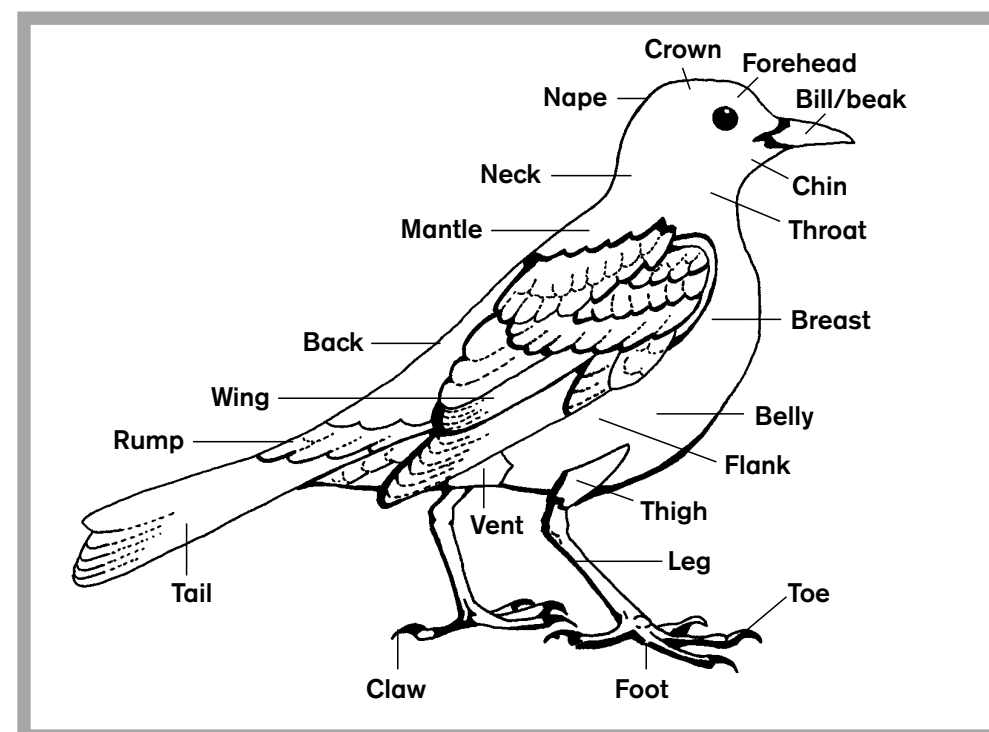
WHERE TO LOOK

- ① Find a place where you can watch birds quietly. If there are a lot of people about (including you!) the birds might be scared away.
- ② Larger birds can sometimes be seen on the water. Look for smaller birds on the ground, on the towpath, in bushes, hedges, trees, in buildings and in the air.
- ③ Choose one bird to study closer. Can you see how different it is to the others? Use the diagram below to help you. Look at the different parts of the bird – legs, feet, beak, wings – what are they like? What colour are they?

"Can you see what makes your bird different from the others?"

**BIRD WORDS**

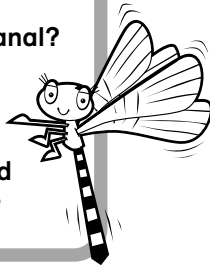
These are the words a birdwatcher uses to describe and identify different birds. Try to use these words when you are describing birds to other people.



- ① Draw your bird in the middle of this box.
- ② Mark what makes it different from other birds, like we've done in the example on the previous page.
- ③ How big is your bird – how long is it? Write this at the bottom of your picture.

DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP:
Do you think you'd see more birds if there were ...

- fewer people/dogs/cyclists/boats on the canal?
- somewhere you could hide so the birds couldn't see or hear you?
- if there were more places where birds would be undisturbed e.g. lots of trees or bushes?



①



- ① Look at the bird identification poster. Is your bird on it? No?

② Then look in a bird identification book from the library - or on the internet.

③ Write the name of your bird on the recording form in column 1 on the next page and on your drawing.
- ④ How many questions can you answer on the recording form on the next page?

⑤ Look for four other birds – if you can't see any more on the water, try the hedges, trees, buildings, or in the air.

⑥ Draw them on paper and fill in the form in the same way you did for your first bird.

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BIRD NAME

1	2	3	4	5

What kind is it?

A water bird
A land bird

How many can you see along the canal?

(Tick what applies)

On the water
On the land
Flying

Where are the birds most of the time?

(Tick what applies)

Open water
Plant fringes
Hedgerow
Towpath
In the sky
On a branch
Other

What is the bird doing most of the time?

(Tick what applies)

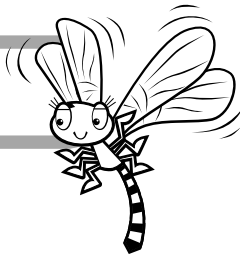
Swimming
Walking/hopping
Flying
Feeding
Resting/sleeping
Preening
Dust-bathing
Singing/calling
Other

Activity 2:
Dinner time!

- ① Choose a bird and watch it carefully.
- ② Answer the questions on the form for your bird.
- ③ Do the same thing with four other birds.

	1	2	3	4	5
NAME OF BIRD					

If you're not sure what your bird is called, ask your teacher or group leader, or look it up in a book.



Where is your bird feeding most of the time?
(tick more than one, if your bird is doing more than one thing)

Over the water surface					
On/under the surface					
Deep down under water					
On the ground					
Other					

What does your bird eat?

Eats plants					
Eats animals, insects or fish					
Eats both					

Birds have different feeding habits and look for different types of food. Their bodies are generally well suited to finding and eating their favourite foods.

Some water birds dive for their food, some dabble on the surface.

Other birds have long legs so they can wade through the water and spear their food with long sharp beaks.

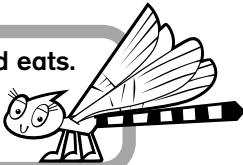
Some have long necks so they can reach the bottom without diving.

Others feed on the canal banks, looking for food in the grass.

Activity 3:
Spot the difference!

- ① Look at the different parts of your bird's body.
- ② Think about how they help the bird find what it eats.
- ③ Work out which birds eat plants (e.g. seeds) and which eat insects, fish or animals. Which birds eat a range of different things – can you tell from the shape of their beaks?
- ④ How are their beaks different?
- ⑤ On the form below describe your bird's beak, neck, wings, legs and feet and say how they are suited to the sort of food it eats. You might like to draw diagrams to show what you mean e.g. draw the shape of the bird's beak or feet.

Don't worry if you can't work out what your bird eats. You can always make notes or draw the bird, and look it up once you're back indoors.



	1	2	3	4	5
NAME OF BIRD					
Beak					
Neck					
Wings					
Legs					
Feet					
other					

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